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A review of: "HANDBOOK OF AFFINITY CHROMATOGRAPHY"

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BOOK REVIEW

HANDBOOK OF AFFINITY CHROMATOGRAPHY

T. Kline, Ed.

Marcel Dekker, New York, 1993; hardbound,
viii + 332 pages, \$135.00

The three main sections of this book, which are subdivided into twelve chapters treat: I. TECHNIQUES OF AFFINITY CHROMATOGRAPHY: 1. Overview; 2. Support Materials for Affinity Chromatography; II. PREPARATIVE APPLICATIONS OF AFFINITY CHROMATOGRAPHY: 3. Affinity Chromatography of Enzymes; 4. Affinity Chromatography of Regulatory and Signal-Transducing Proteins; 5. Purification of Membrane Transport Proteins and Receptors by Immobilized-Ligand Affinity Chromatography; 6. Purification of Nucleic Acid-Binding Proteins by Affinity Chromatography; 7. Nucleic Acid and Its Derivatives; III. RESEARCH ON BIORECOGNITION: 8. Affinity Chromatography in Biology and Biotechnology: Probing Macromolecular Interactions Using Immobilized Ligands; 9. Surface Plasmon Resonance Detection in Affinity Technologies: BIAcore; 10. Determination of Binding Constants by Quantitative Affinity Chromatography: Current and Future Applications; 11. Weak Affinity Chromatography; 12. Investigating Specificity via Affinity Chromatography.

This is a useful albeit fairly compact collection of chapters, by 18 authors, on selected aspects of affinity chromatography. The first chapter is a longish "Overview" ending with "Methods", i.e., a number of random mini-recipes, without indication of their specific uses. Chapter 2 on Support Materials is quite useful, as is the entire Section II, on Preparative Applications. Section III contains a few more innovative chapters. Chapter 9, on BIAcore methodology has been published with mild modifications in a fair number of other places; however, its insertion here is not inappropriate. Chapters 10-12 are the most interesting and innovative ones, although some are probably somewhat hastily put together. (E.g., ch. 11 relegates the explanation of a number of the figures to various places in the literature, which makes figure 2 for instance rather hard to understand. The preferred use of illustrations is to make things clearer for the reader, and not to send him to the library, on a quest to discover what the whole thing is all about.) It is exaggerated to call this small edition of selected chapters a "handbook", but the book, such as it is, is decidedly useful and is strongly recommended to all those in Academia and Industry who wish to keep abreast of novel analytical and preparative aspects of Affinity Chromatography.

Carel J. van Oss